

Lawrence Anarchist Black Cross Mission Statement

The Lawrence Anarchist Black Cross is a collective of anti-authoritarians dedicated to prison abolition and a revolutionary new egalitarian society based on mutual aid and cooperation. We focus on aiding and working with anarchist, class war, fight back, and political prisoners, but our work is not limited to these groups. We also reach out to and support social prisoners. We stand steadfast against all forms of oppression, are dedicated to the fight for a free society, and run or support campaigns in line with our vision.

abolitionist adj: someone who seeks to do away with certain institutions, particularly the institution of slavery.

anarchism n: the understanding that all forms of domination are unnecessary and detrimental to the well-being of humanity as well as other living things. The movement for voluntary egalitarian relationships in all aspects of existence, especially human society.

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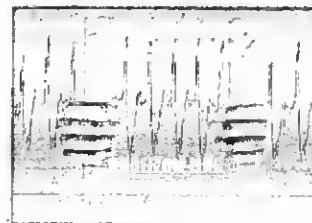
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The Prison Index



Get the real facts about crime and punishment in the US today!

The Prison Index. Taking the Pulse of the Crime Control Industry is the first index of statistics about our nation's criminal justice system ever published. Containing 611 facts and 17 graphs and charts, this 48-page volume presents, in black-and-white, the state of crime control in America. Below is just a sample of some of the insightful and useful information, in easy to read index form.

Who is at the greatest risk of crime victimization? Who has confidence in the criminal justice system?

Blacks are more than four times as likely as Whites to have no confidence in the criminal justice system

When asked whether you have a great deal, some, or very little confidence in the criminal justice system, what percentage volunteered "none"?

Whites: 2%

Blacks: 9%

Poor people are more likely than richer people to have very little or no confidence in the criminal justice system.

Percent of people reporting very little or no confidence in the criminal justice system:¹

Incomes at or over \$50,000: 31%

Incomes under \$20,000: 40%

The rich are the least likely to have their homes burglarized.

Number of burglaries per 1,000 households by household income level:

Household income under \$7,500²: 67.0

Household income between \$7,500-\$14,999²: 44.2

Household income between \$50,000-\$74,999²: 24.1

Household income \$75,000 or more²: 13.1

Murder rates vary greatly by race and gender.

Number of murders and non-negligent manslaughters by race and gender of victim per 100,000 population, 1998³:

White females: 2.2

White males: 6.1

African-American females: 8.6

African-American males: 42.1

(Endnotes)

¹ Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000, Table 2.14

² Calculation. Sourcebook 2000, Table 2.14

Statistical Abstract 2001, Table 305

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Statistical Abstract 2001, Table 115.

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The United States stands alone on high incarceration

Incarceration rates per 100,000 population in other countries and regions.

Countries with high incarceration:

United States: 686
Cayman Islands: 664
Russia: 638
Belarus: 554
Kazakhstan: 522
Turkmenistan: 489
Belize: 459
Bahamas: 447
Suriname: 437
Dominica: 420

First World countries with low incarceration

Australia: 116
Canada: 102
England and Wales: 139
Finland: 59
France: 85
Germany: 96
Iceland: 38
Ireland: 86
Italy: 95
Japan: 48
Netherlands: 93
Spain: 126

Median rates per region

Western and Central Africa: 50
Southern Africa: 362
South America: 107
Caribbean: 297
South central Asia: 54
Central Asia: 426
Southern Europe: 69
Central and Eastern Europe: 213
Oceania (including Australia and New Zealand): 110

Incarcerated population on the planet¹: 8,750,000

- Percent of incarcerated population that is in the United States²: 22
- Percent of global population that is in the United States³: 4.6
- Number incarcerated in the United States per 100,000 population⁴: 686
- Percent of countries with prison populations below 150 per 100,000 national population⁵: 62.5%

While the United States leads the world in caging its citizens, the prevalence of crime in the United States is just average.

- Average percent of population in 17 industrialized countries that were a victim of a crime in 1999⁶: 21
- Percent of the United States who were a victim of a crime in 1999⁷: 21

(Endnotes)

¹ Roy Walmsley, *World Prison Population List*, 4th edition, p. 1.

² Calculation. *Ibid*

³ Calculation based on the estimated U.S. population of 239,948,581 and the world population 6,265,656,384 at 1999 (Source: *World Population Prospects*, 1999, p. 11).

⁴ *World Prison Population List*, p. 1.

⁵ *Ibid*

⁶ Van Kesteren, I., Mayhew, P. & Nieuwenhuis, P. (2000) *Criminal Victimization in Seventeen Industrialized Countries: Key findings from the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey* Chapter 2, Figure 6.

⁷ *Ibid*

Prisonsucks.com

Prisonsucks.com is a clearinghouse for useful, verifiable statistics about the crime control industry. Too often prison activists use statistics that are out of date, provided without citation or simply wrong. In some cases, the numbers we need don't exist. In others, the facts exist but activists don't know where to find them. Now you do. Start at prisonsucks.com.

The site was founded in February 2001 as a private tool to keep track of prison research superior to a stack of news clippings. In December of that year the site was picked up by the Prison Policy Initiative and considerably expanded.

What's here and what's not

The site has relatively comprehensive links to quality research, factsheets, books and other resources for researchers and activists.

This site doesn't have much in the way of links to important news events and activist organizations. Why? It's too much work and it's already being done very well by others. However, you can add your own links to our [links](#) page, or use these great resources elsewhere

- [Links to other resources on the net](#)
- [Today's Prison News from Yahoo](#)
- [Google Directory: Society > Issues > Crime and Justice > Prisons > Organizations](#)
- [Google Directory: Society > Issues > Crime and Justice](#)
- [Google Directory: Society > Crime](#)

We also don't have much in the way of general education materials besides the [factsheets](#), and we don't know of any really good ones elsewhere on the net. That's frustrating because the common perception about prisons and prisoners is pretty horrible and most of what we've put on this site comes in at too high a level. We need more stuff directed at the "prisoners have it easy" and "prisoners must have done something wrong" crowds. If anyone has put together a list of such sites and resources, let us know and we'll link to it directly, otherwise the Prison Policy Initiative is looking for help to develop more of these resources. In the mean time, here are a few good resources:

- [The Top Ten Non-Frivolous Lawsuits Filed By Prisoners](#)
- [Crime and Prison Quiz \(CEML\)](#) (getting quite dated, but very effective)

For journalists

- [Prisons and the Press \(PDF\)](#) by Bernice Yeung, (2003)
- [Guide for journalists covering criminal justice](#) Center on Crime Communities & Culture and the Columbia Journalism Review (2000)
- [Guide for journalists covering criminal justice](#) Center on Crime Communities & Culture and the Columbia Journalism Review (1999)

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Incarceration is not an equal opportunity punishment.

On June 30, 2002, there were 2,019,234 people in U.S. prisons and jails. That's a rise of 2.8% during the 12 previous months. The average annual increase since 1995 has been 3.8%.

As of June 30, 2002, the U.S. incarceration rate was 702 per 100,000 residents. But when you break down the statistics you see that incarceration is not an equal opportunity punishment.

Select U.S. incarceration rates:

Whites: 353 per 100,000
Blacks: 2,470 per 100,000
Latinos: 895 per 100,000

Gender is an important "filter" on the who goes to prison:

Males: 1,309 per 100,000
White males: 649 per 100,000
Black males: 4,810 per 100,000
Hispanic males: 1,740 per 100,000

Break it down by age and race, and you can see what is going on even clearer:

For Black males ages 25-29: 12,877 per 100,000. (That's 12.9% of Black men in their late 20s!)

Or you can make some international comparisons:

South Africa under apartheid was internationally condemned as a racist society.
South Africa under apartheid (1993), Black adult men: 851 per 100,000
U.S. under George Bush (2002), Black adult men: 7,150 per 100,000

What does it mean that the leader of the "free world" locks up its Black men at a rate 8.4 times higher than the most openly racist country in the world?

Statistics as of June 30, 2002 from Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2002

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/hp/abstract/pjim02.htm>, Tables 1, 14 and 15; Calculation for rates by Race and for Black adult men uses data from Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2002 Tables 13 and 14 and Census preliminary Population estimates for July 1, 2002 provided by BJS; South Africa figures from Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration. <http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/other/spubb.htm> All references to Blacks and Whites are for what the Bureau of Justice Statistics and U.S. Census refer to as "non-Hispanic Blacks" and "non-Hispanic Whites".)

Last edit: 4/14/2003

FACTS ABOUT PRISONS AND PRISONERS

The Growing Corrections System

- The number of inmates in state and federal prisons has increased more than six-fold from less than 200,000 in 1970 to 1,440,655 by the end 2002. An additional 665,475 are held in local jails
- As of June 30, 2002, the nation's prison and jail population exceeded 2 million for the first time in history.
- At the end of 2002, 1 of every 143 Americans was incarcerated in prison or jail.
- The number of persons on probation and parole has been growing dramatically along with institutional populations. There are now 6.7 million Americans incarcerated or on probation or parole, an increase of more than 265 percent since 1980.
- One in eight (12.9%) black males aged 25-29 were in prison or jail at midyear 2002, as were 1 in 23 (4.3%) Hispanic males and 1 in 63 (1.6%) white males in the same age group
- Overall, 1 in 1,656 women and 1 in 110 men were in prison in 2002.
- The 2002 United States' rate of incarceration of 701 inmates per 100,000 population is the highest reported rate in the world, now ahead of Russia's rate of 611 per 100,000.

Who is in our Prisons and Jails?

- 93% of prison inmates are male, 7% female.
- 45% of prison inmates in 2002 were black and 18% were Hispanic
- 68% of state prison inmates in 1997 had not completed high school.
- 36% of jail inmates in 1996 were unemployed prior to entering jail.
- 64% of jail inmates in 1996 had monthly incomes of under \$1,000 in the month before their arrest.
- 70% of those sentenced to state prisons in 1998 were convicted of non-violent crimes, including 31% for drug offenses, and 26% for property offenses
- 1 in 4 jail inmates in 1996 was in jail for a drug offense, compared to 1 in 10 in 1983; drug offenders constituted 21% of 1999 state prison inmates and 57% of 1999 federal prison inmates.
- Black males have a 32% chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males have a 17% chance, white males have a 6% chance

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

10/03

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Women Prisoners

Facts and Figures at a Glance

- Women represent the fastest growing segment of prison and jail populations. Eighty-five percent of incarcerated women serve time for nonviolent crimes. In 1970, there were 5,600 women incarcerated in federal and state prisons. At year-end 2000, 91,612 women were in state or federal prisons – 6.6% of the total prison population. John Irwin, Ph.D., Vincent Schiraldi, and Jason Ziegenberg, *America's One Million Nonviolent Prisoners* (Washington, DC: Justice Policy Institute, March 1999) and: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2000* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, August 2001).
- The prison industrial complex disproportionately impacts women of color. African American women (with an incarceration rate of 205 per 100,000) are more than three times as likely as Latino women (60 per 100,000) and six times more likely than white women (34 per 100,000) to face imprisonment. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2000* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, August 2001).
- The Drug War targets women and, in part, explains the huge increase in women's imprisonment. From 1985 to 1996, female drug arrests increased by 95% while male drug arrests increased by 55%. During this same period, the number of women sentenced to state prison for drug-related crimes increased ten fold (from 2,370 to 23,700). Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports 1985* (Washington DC: US Government Printing Office, 1986) and Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1997 *Uniform Crime Report* (Washington DC: US Government Printing Office, 1998).
- Women prisoners are often survivors of abuse and, once incarcerated, routinely experience sexual harassment. Forty-four percent of women under correctional authority, including 57% of the women in state prisons, report that they were physically or sexually abused at some point in their lives. Sixty-nine percent of women report that this abuse occurred before age 18. Many women in prisons and jails in the United States are victims of sexual abuse by staff, including male guards touching prisoner's breasts and genitals when conducting searches, watching prisoners while they are naked, and rape. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Women Offenders* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, December 1999) and Amnesty International, "Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody" (Washington, DC: Amnesty International, March 1999) and Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Incarcerated Parents and Their Children* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, August 2000).
- The majority of women prisoners are mothers. An estimated 80,000 incarcerated mothers are parents to approximately 200,000 children under 18. African American children (7.0%) were nearly nine times more likely to have an incarcerated parent in prison than white children (0.8%). Similarly, Latino children (2.6%) were three times as likely as white children to have a parent in prison. Amnesty International, "Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody" (Washington, DC: Amnesty International, March 1999) and Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Incarcerated Parents and Their Children* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, August 2000).
- Evidence strongly suggests that the majority of women who kill their abusers do so as a last resort in defense of their own lives and/or the lives of their children. These women often receive longer prison sentences than men who commit similar crimes against an intimate partner. National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women.
- Adequate provision of medical care is one of the most pressing problems facing women prisoners. Women in custody have an increased incidence of chronic health problems and unique medical concerns not properly addressed by a system designed primarily for men. Barriers to care include the use of non-medical personnel to provide healthcare, a co-payment system that requires prisoners to pay for medical services, frequent delays in medication refills, diagnostic testing and follow-up treatment, failure to provide preventative care and a shortage of qualified medical professionals. Amnesty International, "Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody" (Washington, DC: Amnesty International, March 1999).

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The Facts About Crime

1. In the past 30 years, crime rates have fallen dramatically.

While there is a widespread public perception that crime rates have skyrocketed, the reality is that from 1970-1994, violent crime rates remained remarkably stable. Since 1994, violent crime has fallen. In fact, violent crime in 2000 was at its lowest level ever recorded.¹ Property crime has been on a steady decline since 1974.²

2. Violent crime constitutes only 4.6% of arrests in the US.³

Even within this "violent" category, the actual physical violence is often overstated. The vast majority of violent crimes are assaults where one person hits or slaps another or makes a verbal threat. Only about 20 percent of the victims of violent crime nationally went to a hospital emergency room.⁴

3. In the past 30 years, the murder rate has NOT steadily increased.

In fact, the murder rate in this country dropped 44% from 1980 to 1999 and is now the lowest it has been since 1966.⁵

4. Every year an inmate spends in prison costs taxpayers an average of \$22,000.

As prisoners get older, the cost of maintenance rises, ultimately reaching an average of \$69,000 per year for those over the age of fifty-five. A study by a Stanford University professor estimated that the cost of a life term for an average California prisoner is \$1.5 million.⁶

5. 2.1 million Americans are currently incarcerated.

State and federal prisons hold 1.3 million people, local jails hold 631,240, and 108,965 are held in juvenile facilities. The remainder are in INS, territorial, military or other facilities. This number is triple what it was in 1985 (700,000).⁷ In addition there are 4.6 million persons on probation or parole, bringing the total to 6.7 million citizens—over 3 percent of the adult population—under the supervision of the criminal justice system.⁸

6. Locking up more offenders for longer periods of time does not significantly reduce the crime rate.

Academic research has shown little or no correlation between rates of crime and the number of people in prison.⁹ States with high rates of imprisonment may or may not have high rates of crime, while states with low rates of crime may or may not have high rates of imprisonment. North Dakota and South Dakota, which are virtually identical in terms of demographics and geography, provide an example. South Dakota imprisons its citizens at more than twice the rate of North Dakota¹⁰, but crime between the states is roughly the same¹¹ and has been for decades. Nationally, the fact that the prison population has quadrupled and there are still about 12 million crimes¹² reported each year should further illustrate the point that we can not incarcerate away the crime problem.

7. Prisons and the fear of crime are becoming one of America's biggest growth industries.

In 2001, federal, state and local governments spent an estimated \$49 billion on corrections.¹⁴ The crime control portion of the police and judicial budgets is an estimated \$51 billion.¹⁵ Private security costs \$104 billion.¹⁶ Combine the prisoners and the crime-fighters and you have 19% of the U.S. workforce consumed by this industry.¹⁷

— American Friends Service Committee,
Arizona Area Criminal Justice Program <http://www.afsc.org/az.htm>
& Prison Policy Initiative <http://www.prisonpolicy.org>
Last update: 8/14/02

¹ US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (hereinafter BJS), *Violent Crime Rate Trends* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/vicrttstab.htm>> viewed August 12, 2002.

² BJS, *Property Crime Trends* <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/propcrim.htm>> viewed August 12, 2002.

³ BJS, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 2001) Table 1.3 (hereinafter *Sourcebook 2000*).

⁴ BJS, *Inquiries from Violent Crime, 1992-1998*, June 2001 <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pd/vic1992.pdf>> viewed August 12, 2002.

⁵ BJS, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000* Table 3.1.10, Washington, DC: USGPO, 2001.

⁶ Zimardo, Philip, November 1994, *Transforming California's Prisons Into Expensive Old Age Homes for Felons*, San Francisco: Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

⁷ BJS, *Prisoners in 2000*, July 2002 <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pd/p01.pdf>> p. 1 viewed August 12, 2002.

⁸ BJS, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000* Combining data from tables 6.21 and 6.27 Washington, DC: USGPO, 2001.

⁹ BJS, *National Correctional Population Reaches New High*, Tables 1-2 <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pd/ncpp00.pdf>> viewed August 12, 2002.

¹⁰ See generally, Blumstein and Wallman, eds. *The Crime Drop in America*, Chapter 4, Cambridge University Press (1998).

¹¹ BJS, *Sourcebook 2000* Table 6.28.

¹² BJS, *Sourcebook 2000* Table 3.1.22.

¹³ BJS, *Sourcebook 2000* Table 3.1.30.

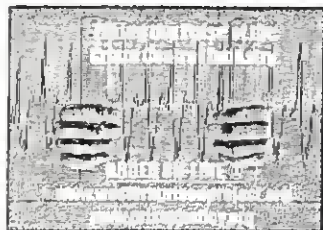
¹⁴ In 1997, these governments spent a \$43.3 billion (BJS, *Sourcebook 2000* Table 1.2.) when the prisoner population was 12% smaller than it is today. We increased the 1997 figure to make it proportional with the population increase. As we ignored inflation since 1997, our figure is conservative.

¹⁵ Nib, Christine, *Crime Control as Industry*, Routledge: NY 3rd ed. (2000) p. 138.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* p. 140.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* p. 141.

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Why does prison building continue as crime drops?

Incarceration grew rapidly in the 1990s, approaching almost 2 million adults in prison or jail by 2000

• Growth in the number of prisoners and jail inmates, 1994 to 2000¹: +439,121

While prison populations soared, crime was actually falling.

As measured by arrests for "index crimes" (crimes considered serious and tracked statistically by the FBI) crime has been falling every year since 1994.² The murder rate has been falling since 1993.³

• Number of arrests for index crimes per 100,000 population, 1994⁴: 1,148.4

• Number of arrests for index crimes per 100,000 population, 2000⁵: 821.8

• Number of murders per 100,000 population, 1994⁶: 9.0

• Number of murders per 100,000 population, 2000⁷: 5.5

Public perceptions contradict the fact that crime is falling.

Crime has been declining for 6 years in a row, but for 5 of those years *most* Americans thought crime was on the increase. In 2000, almost half of the public thought that crime was increasing.

• Percentage of people believing that crime in the U.S. was rising, 1996⁸: 71

• Actual change in arrest rate for index crimes, 1995 to 1996⁹: -5.1%

• Percentage of people believing that crime in the U.S. is rising, 2000¹⁰: 47

• Actual change in arrest rate for index crimes, 1999 to 2000¹¹: -6.6%

If asked about crime in their local area, the public's perception are less likely to be wrong.

• Percentage of people believing that crime in their local area was rising, 1996¹²: 46

• Percentage of people believing that crime in their local area was rising, 2000¹³: 34

The cost of the criminal justice system is growing.

• Public expenditures on criminal justice, 1994¹⁴: \$103 billion

• Public expenditures on criminal justice, 2000¹⁵: \$153 billion

If crime is declining, why might people believe it is growing?

• Percent of public that forms opinions about crime based on what they see or read in the news¹⁶: 82%

(Endnotes)

¹ Calculations, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000, Table 6.20 and Table 6.27

² Sourcebook 1991, Table 4.2

³ Sourcebook 1999, Table 3.14a

⁴ Sourcebook 2000, Table 4.2

⁵ Sourcebook 2001, Table 4.1

⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

Homicide trends website, *Homicide victimization 1970-2000*

⁷ *Ibid*

⁸ Sourcebook 2000, Table 7.1a

⁹ Calculation, Sourcebook 2000, Table 4.2.

¹⁰ Sourcebook 2000, Table 2.1a

¹¹ Calculation, Sourcebook 2001, Table 4.2

¹² Sourcebook 2000, Table 2.1a

¹³ *Ibid*

¹⁴ U.S. Justice Expenditures and Employment in the United States, spread sheet table 1

¹⁵ Projected from *Ibid*

¹⁶ *NYC News*, Issue 2000, republished at

http://www.publicagenda.com/issues/nylpc/pcr_dtdad2.cfm?issue=11pr

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Factsheet: Women in Prison

- Since 1980 the number of women in prison has increased at nearly double the rate for men.
- The number of women in state and federal prisons has increased seven-fold from 12,300 in 1980 to 96,000 in 2002.
- 43% of women prisoners are African American and 12% are Latinas.
- Women in state prisons in 2001 were more likely than men to be incarcerated for a drug offense (32% vs. 20%) or property offense (25% vs. 19%) and less likely than men to be incarcerated for a violent offense (31% vs. 50%).
- In 1997, Latinas (44%) and African American women (39%) were more likely to be incarcerated for a drug offense than white women (23%).
- Three-quarters of women in state and federal prisons report that they had used drugs regularly prior to their arrest; over 60% had used drugs in the month prior to their offense.
- In 1997, 65% of women in state prisons were parents of minor children, compared to 55% of men. Two-thirds of mothers incarcerated in state prison lived with their children prior to their arrest.
- Approximately 37% of women and 28% of men in prison had monthly incomes of less than \$600 prior to their arrest.
- Nearly a quarter of women in state prisons have a history of mental illness.
- Nationally 3.6% of women in state and federal prisons were HIV positive in 2000, compared to 2% of men. The women's figures range as high as 18.2% in New York State and 41% in the District of Columbia.
- More than half of the women in state prisons have been abused, 47% physically abused and 39% sexually abused (with many being survivors of both types of abuse).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

S/03

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Prisoners with Children Facts and Figures at a Glance

- ✎ The growth of the prison system has dramatically impacted the lives of millions of children. In 1999, U.S. prisons held the parents of over 1.5 million children, an increase of over 500,000 since 1991. Mumolo, C.J., "Incarcerated Parents and Their Children", *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report* [August 2000].
- ✎ The majority of women prisoners are mothers. An estimated 80,000 incarcerated mothers are parents to approximately 200,000 children under 18. African American children (7.0%) were nearly nine times more likely to have an incarcerated parent in prison than white children (0.8%). Similarly, Latino children (2.6%) were three times as likely as white children to have a parent in prison. Amnesty International, "Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody" (Washington, DC: Amnesty International, March 1999) and Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Incarcerated Parents and Their Children* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, August 2000).
- ✎ In California, 195,000 children have a parent in state prison and another 97,000 children have parents in county jail. The parents of 564,000 other children were on parole and probation, bringing the total number of California children with parents involved in the adult criminal justice system to 856,000. Simons, Charlene Wear, PhD., "Children of Incarcerated Parents," *California Research Bureau*, Prepared At the Request of Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni [March 2000], p. 2.
- ✎ African American children (7.0%) were nearly nine times more likely to have an incarcerated parent in prison than white children (0.8%). Similarly, Latino children (2.6%) were three times as likely as white children to have a parent in prison. "Incarcerated Parents and Their Children", *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report* (August 2000).
- ✎ Studies show that about one quarter of children remain with their fathers when the mother goes to prison, but nearly 9 out of 10 children remain with their mothers when the father is incarcerated. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Special Report: Women in Prisons*, U.S. Department of Justice, March 1990.

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Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Women and The Drug War Facts and Figures at a Glance

- ✎ From 1986 to 1996, the number of women sentenced to state prison for drug crimes increased ten fold (from around 2,370 to 23,700) and, in part, explains the huge increase in the imprisonment of women. Amnesty International, "Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody" (Washington, DC: Amnesty International, March 1999).
- ✎ From 1985 to 1996, female drug arrests increased by 95%, while male drug arrests increased by 55%. *Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports 1985* (Washington DC: US Government Printing Office, 1986) and *Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1997 Uniform Crime Report* (Washington DC: US Government Printing Office, 1998).
- ✎ In 1994, a study found that women were over-represented among those convicted of low-level drug related crimes and, despite having no prior criminal histories, received sentences similar to those convicted as "high level drug offenders" under the federal mandatory minimum sentencing laws. *Department of Justice, "An Analysis of Non-violent Drug Offenders with Minimal Criminal Histories,"* February 1994.
- ✎ In 1995, a study found that one in three women incarcerated in a state prison and one in four women in a county jail served time for violating a drug law. The comparable figure for men was one in five for both prisons and jails. Amnesty International, "Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the Human Rights of Women in Custody" (Washington, DC: Amnesty International, March 1999).
- ✎ Between 1990 and 1996, the number of women convicted of drug felonies increased by 37% (from 43,000 in 1990 to 59,536 in 1996). The number of convictions for simple possession increased 41% over that period, from 18,438 in 1990 to 26,022 in 1996. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Women Offenders* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, December 1999).
- ✎ In 1999, 72% of women in federal prisons and 33.7% of women in state prisons served time for drug-related crimes. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Women Offenders* (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, December 1999) and *Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoners in 2000* (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Justice, August 2001).
- ✎ Regardless of similar or equal levels of illicit drug use during pregnancy, African American women are 10 times more likely than white women to be reported to child welfare agencies for prenatal drug use. Neuspier, D.R., "Racism and Perinatal Addiction," *Ethnicity and Disease*, 6: 47-55 (1996); Chasnoff, I.J., Landress, H.J., & Barrett, M.E., "The Prevalence of Illicit-Drug or Alcohol Use during Pregnancy and Discrepancies in Mandatory Reporting in Pinellas County, Florida," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 322: 1202-1206 (1990).

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